

P-415, 421/CP-92-1010 ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Cynthia A. Kitlinski
Dee Knaak

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for
Extended Area Service from
Kimball to St. Cloud

ISSUE DATE: November 9, 1993

DOCKET NO. P-415, 421/CP-92-1010

ORDER GRANTING TIME EXTENSION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 19, 1992, subscribers in the Kimball exchange filed a petition for extended area service (EAS) to the St. Cloud exchange. Kimball is served by the Melrose Telephone Company (Melrose); St. Cloud is served by US WEST Communications, Inc. (US WEST).

On March 2, 1993, the Commission issued its ORDER DETERMINING ADJACENCY AND TRAFFIC VOLUME AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS. In that Order the Commission found that the EAS petition fulfilled two of the three EAS statutory requirements: Kimball is adjacent to St. Cloud; and traffic volume between the two exchanges is sufficient to support the EAS petition.

After the March 2 Order was issued, Commission Staff learned that there had been confusion on the part of at least some petitioners regarding the extent of the petitioned area in this proceeding. In its May 28, 1993 ORDER DETERMINING BOUNDARY OF PETITIONED EXCHANGE AND REQUIRING FURTHER FILINGS, the Commission determined that the petitioned area consisted solely of the St. Cloud exchange itself. Since the previous traffic study filed by Melrose reflected the confusion regarding the petitioned exchange, the Commission ordered Melrose to file new studies of traffic between Kimball and St. Cloud. If the studies showed sufficient traffic to fulfill the statutory requirement, US WEST and Melrose were ordered to submit cost studies and proposed rates. The Department of Public Service (the Department) was ordered to file its report and recommendations within 45 days of receipt of the cost studies and proposed rates.

US WEST and Melrose duly filed their cost studies and proposed rates. Under the terms of the May 28 Order the Department was required to file its report and recommendations by October 27, 1993.

On October 26, 1993, the Department filed a request for an extension of time in which to file its report. The Department explained that US WEST and the Department had stipulated to a 10.64 percent cost of capital for US WEST, to be used in all pending and future EAS cost study filings. The stipulation, filed October 15, 1993, was accepted by the Commission in the Cotton/Duluth EAS docket, P-501, 421/CP-92-41.¹ The Department requested extra time so that US WEST and Melrose could factor in a cost of money for US WEST which would be consistent with the Commission's findings in the Cotton/Duluth EAS docket. The Department would then need time in which to examine the new cost studies and issue its report and recommendations. The Department therefore requested that the deadline for filing its report be extended to November 29, 1993.

The Department's request for a time extension came before the Commission on November 2, 1993.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the Department's request for a time extension is reasonable and should be granted. No party will be harmed by the delay. The extra time should enable the parties to deal with a significant new factor, the cost of money agreed to by US WEST and the Department and found reasonable and acceptable by the Commission in the Cotton/Duluth EAS proceeding.

The Commission will grant the Department a time extension until November 29, 1993.

ORDER

1. The Commission grants the Department a time extension until November 29, 1993, in which to file its report and recommendations.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Susan Mackenzie
Acting Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

¹ In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area Service from Cotton to Duluth, ORDER REQUIRING REVISED COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES USING STIPULATED COST OF MONEY FIGURE (November 3, 1993).